

Serial No.: 09/833,085
Group Art Unit: 3627
Examiner: Andrew J. Rudy

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 remain in this application. Claims 21 through 34 are currently withdrawn due to a restriction requirement.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,618,630 to Jundt (the Jundt reference). However, the Office Action failed to provide for a prima facie showing that the claims are obvious over the Jundt reference.

Independent Claim 1 and dependent claims 2 through 19

Independent claim 1 states, "assigning system-readable identification to an asset item of a communication network; receiving, at a physical asset manager, said system-readable identification of the asset item in response to installing the asset item in the communication network; and creating an informational link between an on-line sub-object of the asset item and an off-line sub-object of the asset item, wherein said system-readable identification enables the physical asset manager to create the informational link between the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item."

The Office Action merely states that the Jundt reference discloses "an informational link between an on-line subobject and off-line subobject" at columns 6-7. However, this quotation is not the full claim requirement. The claim requirement states, "creating an informational link between an on-line sub-object of the asset item and an off-line sub-object of the asset item, wherein said system-readable identification enables the physical asset manager to create the informational link between the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item." The Office Action nowhere specifies that the Jundt reference discloses or suggests this requirement of the claim.

Furthermore, the Office Action takes, "Official Notice" of "physical asset managers corresponding to an in repair substate of an un-installed state to an installed state, providing an installation operation, an de-installation operation, in-stock substate." We respectfully traverse the assertion of official notice and request citation of prior art references disclosing the claim elements. As stated in the background of the invention on page 1, lines 27 through 29, an

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integrated inventory management of on-line and off-line communications network equipment is not known in the prior art.

Finally, the Office Action states that motivation for modifying the Jundt reference "would have been to keep track of common knowledge spare parts in an asset management system." First, there is no citation in the Office Action to the prior art of this motivation. See M.P.E.P. 2143.01. Second, this motivation does not necessarily lead to modifying Jundt to meet the requirements of the present invention. As stated, on page 1, lines 17 through 23 of this application, prior art methods used different inventory management applications for managing on-line network equipment and off-line network equipment. So the cited motivation of "keeping track of common knowledge spare parts in an asset management system" could be motivation to the known method of a second off-line inventory management system.

Independent Claim 20

Independent Claim 20 requires assigning a serial number and a part number to an asset item of a communication network, wherein the serial number and the part number are electronically stored on an electronic element of the asset; receiving, at a physical asset manager, the serial number and the part number of the asset item to a physical asset manager in response to installing the asset item in the communication network; performing an informational binding operation for associating information retrievable from an on-line persistent asset database with corresponding information retrievable from an off-line asset inventory database, wherein said system-readable identification enables the physical asset manager to create an informational link between the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item; enabling the display of a physical asset management view of an object corresponding to the asset item in response to creating the informational link, wherein the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item are capable of being integrally viewed in the physical asset management view; and preparing network planning information after creating the informational link.

The Office Action made no separate arguments on how the Jundt reference suggests the requirements of claim 20. As above, it merely states that the Jundt reference discloses "an

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informational link between an on-line subobject and off-line subobject" at columns 6-7. However, this quotation is not the full claim requirement. The claim requirement states, "performing an informational binding operation for associating information retrievable from an on-line persistent asset database with corresponding information retrievable from an off-line asset inventory database, wherein said system-readable identification enables the physical asset manager to create an informational link between the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item." The Office Action nowhere specifies that the Jundt reference discloses or suggests this requirement of the claim.

Furthermore, the Office Action takes, "Official Notice" of "physical asset managers corresponding to an in repair substate of an un-installed state to an installed state, providing an installation operation, an de-installation operation, in-stock substate." We respectfully traverse the assertion of official notice and request citation of prior art references disclosing the claim elements. As stated in the background of the invention on page 1, lines 27 through 29, an integrated inventory management of on-line and off-line communications network equipment is not known in the prior art.

Finally, the Office Action states that motivation for modifying the Jundt reference "would have been to keep track of common knowledge spare parts in an asset management system." First, there is no citation in the Office Action to the prior art of this motivation. See M.P.E.P. 2143.01. Second, this motivation does not necessarily lead to modifying Jundt to meet the requirements of the present invention. As stated, on page 1, lines 17 through 23 of this application, prior art methods used different inventory management applications for managing on-line network equipment and off-line network equipment. So the cited motivation of "keeping track of common knowledge spare parts in an asset management system" could be motivation to the known method of a second off-line inventory management system.

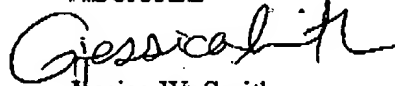
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CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Jessica Smith at (972) 477-9109.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL


Jessica W. Smith
Reg. No. 39,884

Dated: June 30, 2005

Alcatel USA
Intellectual Property Department
3400 W. Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2
Plano, TX 75075
Phone: (972) 519-2295
Fax: (972) 477-9328